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flames. It is not difficult to reconcile a theory such as this with that of Arrhenius.

ALFRED SANG

RECESSIVE CHARACTERS

For the past two years there has been exhibited at the Trenton (New Jersey) Agricultural Show a cow without trace of the body hairs. This cow was crossed with a normal bull, according to the owner, Mr. Frank Fraunfelter, of Pennsylvania, and a male calf was born last September which has the ordinary hairy coat. This result indicates that the presence of the hair follicles is dominant over their absence. This adds another case to the law that the presence of a quality is dominant over its absence or that a retrogressive or retarded condition is recessive to the more developed conditions. C. B. DAVENPORT

QUOTATIONS

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE Institute of Technology has now solved a problem of some delicacy and difficulty in selecting for the head of that institution Professor Richard C. MacLaurin, at present at the head of the mathematical physics department of Columbia University, and he has accepted the honor and the responsibility. The institute has been under capable direction during the nearly two years that have elapsed since the resignation of President Pritchett. Acting President Noyes has maintained its high standards and manifested a degree of executive skill that probably would have given him the full title and lodged the full authority of the position in his hands had he been disposed to accept them. But his chosen field of chemical research has possessed more attractions for him. In it he has opportunity to blaze new trails in scientific advance, and he is to be commended for his clear and loyal following of his own light and leading in this matter.

The new president evidently understands in its general features the nature of the work to which he has been called, and his record in educational service indicates that he is one

who readily becomes master of detail. The experience will be not less new to him than to the institution, which now for the first time will be under the direction of a man born in another country and trained in foreign schools and universities. That is not necessarily an objection. It may prove a positive gain. Professor MacLaurin is a comparatively young man. His attainments are more than excellent; they are extraordinary, and few men of his years have won more flattering recognition from sources that bear the stamp of authority.

Of course, mere scholarship, even of the highest order, is not enough to meet all the requirements of this new responsibility. His executive ability and his adaptability can be proved only by actual service. But Scotch scholars are thorough; their standards are high and shrewdness and personal tact are among their national characteristics. When Princeton called Dr. McCosh to the presidency, he was a man well along in years, but a famous metaphysician, and he filled the place with distinction. The institute does not need metaphysicians, and the new president has not turned his researches in that direction. He has made great advances in modern science; he is learned in the principles of law and is undoubtedly an enthusiast with respect to the various lines of research with which he has been so conspicuously identified. The institute authorities, the alumni and the public have a well-grounded hope that under his administration a new era of prosperous service will open up for this famous school.—*The Boston Transcript*.

BURDENS OF COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENT ELIOT's impending retirement from the presidency of Harvard is bound to give an impetus to the movement to divide the functions of that office. "The governing boards and the alumni will understand better in six months than they do even now what a void Eliot will leave," writes one of the most prominent of the Boston alumni. But this is not only because Mr. Eliot towers above all other college presidents and is the foremost American citizen. The magnitude of his office is such that it would be a most difficult